Listing of Claims

1. (original) A stabilized azithromycin composition comprising an intimate admixture of azithromycin and a stabilizing-effective amount of an antioxidant.

2. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein less than about 3.5% of the azithromycin is degraded on exposure to 55° C for seven days.

3. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein less than about 1.25% of the azithromycin is degraded on exposure to 50° C for 20 hours.

4. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein the intimate admixture is achieved by coprecipitation of the azithromycin and the antioxidant.

5. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein the intimate admixture is achieved by co-milling the azithromycin and the antioxidant.

6. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein the intimate admixture is achieved by compaction or slugging of the azithromycin and the antioxidant.

7. (canceled)

8. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of butylated hydroxyanisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, propyl gallate, ascorbic acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, and mixtures thereof.

9. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is present in amount of from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight azithromycin.

10. (previously presented) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight azithromycin.

11. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is butylated hydroxytoluene.

12. (original) The azithromycin composition according to claim 1, wherein the antioxidant is sodium ascorbate.

13. (original) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising the stabilized azithromycin composition of claim 1 and a carrier, wherein the pharmaceutical formulation is in a form selected from the group consisting of a tablet, granulate, dragee, capsule, powder, solution, emulsion and suspension.

14. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 13, wherein the formulation is in a form of a tablet or capsule.

15. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 14, wherein the formulation is in the form of a tablet.

16. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 13, wherein the antioxidant is selected from the group consisting of butylated hydroxyanisole, butylated hydroxytoluene, propyl gallate, ascorbic acid, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester of one of these compounds, and mixtures thereof.

17. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 16, wherein the antioxidant is butylated hydroxytoluene.

18. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 16, wherein the antioxidant is present in an amount of from about 0.01% to about 10% by weight azithromycin.

19. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 16, wherein the antioxidant is present in an amount of from about 0.1% to about 5% by weight azithromycin.

20. (original) The pharmaceutical formulation according to claim 13, wherein the stabilized azithromycin composition is made by dissolving azithromycin and an antioxidant in a solvent followed by evaporation of the solvent.

21. (canceled)

22-34. (canceled)

35. (original) A method of treating a bacterial infection in a human or non-human animal in need of such treatment comprising administering to said human or non-human animal a pharmaceutical formulation comprising a stabilized azithromycin composition wherein said composition comprises an intimate admixture of azithromycin and a stabilizing-effective amount of an antioxidant.